

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PDEV, IC

SUBJECT: MORTON SPEECH

REFERENCE: REYKJAVIK 1013

1. AUTHORITY GRANTED TO PROVIDE MORGUNBLADID WITH SECRETARY MORTON'S SPEECH WITH EMBARGO BASIS. SPEECH IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION AS WE CELEBRATE THE ELEVEN-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF ICELAND. ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT RICHARDNIXON AND ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I WISH TO CONVEY OUR WARMEST GREETINGS AND HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROUD PEOPLE OF ICELAND ON HAVING REACHED THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THEIR LONG AND COLORFUL HISTORY. THE UNITED STATES IS ITSELF APPROACHING THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,
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AND WE WELL UNDERSTAND, EVEN FROM OUR RELATIVELY BRIEF

SPAN OF HISTORY, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENTS WHICH ARE UNFOLDING BEFORE US TODAY HERE AT THINGVELLIR.

3. QUOTE THESE PAST ELEVEN HUNDRED YEARS HAVE ESTABLISHED AN HEROIC HERITAGE FOR ICELAND OF WHICH ALL ICELANDERS -- INDEED ALL MEN EVERYWHERE WHO VALUE FREEDOM AND

PERSEVERANCE -- CAN BE PROUD. THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF LEIF ERIKSON AND HIS INTREPID CREW OF NORSE EXPLORERS, WHO BRAVED THE ROUGH WATERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TO DISCOVER NEW WORLDS NEARLY ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO, HAVE LONG SERVED AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR OTHER GENERATIONS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO PUSH BACK THE FRONTIERS OF OUR WORLD. THE RENOWNED ICELANDIC SAGAS WHICH TELL US OF THE EXPLORATIONS OF LEIF ERIKSON, THORSINNUR KARLSEFNI AND OTHERS ARE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AND CALL FORTH OUR DEEPEST RESPECT FOR THOSE GALLANT MEN AND THEIR ICELANDIC DESCENDANTS.

4. QUOTE EVEN BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD, THE FARSIGHTED AND DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE OF ICELAND HAD CREATED THE ALTHING, MAKING IT NOW THE OLDEST SITTING PARLIAMENT IN THE WORLD. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO WITNESS TODAY'S SESSION OF THE ALTHING FOR IT SHOWS THAT THE FINE LEGISLATORS OF ICELAND ARE FAITHFULLY FULFILLING THE TRUST OF THEIR FOREBEARERS. JUST AS LEIF ERIKSON'S EXPEDITION IS A UNIQUE LANDMARK IN MAN'S QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, SO THE ALTHING STANDS AS A MONUMENT TO THOSE DEMOCRATIC VALUES WHICH WE IN THE WEST HOLD SO DEAR.

5. QUOTE DURING THE YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING IN CLOSE ALLIANCE AND HARMONY WITH ICELAND AND ITS PEOPLE. THE FRATERNITY OF ATLANTIC NATIONS HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF THIS COOPERATION. MUTUAL NEEDS HAVE MAINTAINED OUR KINSHIP AND HAVE SEEN IT BLOSSOM INTO ONE OF PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT. THIS AFFINITY HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY OUR EXTENSIVE TRADE ASSOCIATION WHICH MAKES ICELAND A VALUED ECONOMIC PARTNER. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, OFTEN BASED UPON THE UNIQUE CLIMATIC AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST IN ICELAND, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS BEEN MOST BENEFICIAL IN ADVANCING MAN'S KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF OUR WORLD -- AND INDEED OUR UNIVERSE. WE ARE PROUD THAT ICELAND CONTRIBUTED TO MAN'S FIRST TRIP TO THE MOON, HAVING PERMITTED OUR ASTRONAUTS TO PRACTICE THEIR SKILLS IN AN UNUSUAL AREA OF VOLCANIC REMAINS SET AMID THE INCREDIBLE NATURAL BEAUTIES OF YOUR LAND.

6. QUOTE THERE ARE NO TIES WHICH THE UNITED STATES

PRIZES MORE HIGHLY THAN THOSE THAT WE SHARE WITH ICELAND.
I AM CERTAIN AS I STAND HERE TODAY IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AND
HISTORIC SETTING THAT THE WEALTH OF GOODWILL THAT HAS
LONG EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW
AND PROSPER IN THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD -- AT LEAST ELEVEN
HUNDRED MORE. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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